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Renewal

THE SUMMER OF OUR DISCONTENT has ended. The farmer's hopes, for thousands of acres, have ended in disaster; our record exports, offset by record imports, leave the 'gap' in our economy still yawning; wars and rumours of wars extend from Berlin to Burma; a peace treaty for distracted Europe, after three years of bad-tempered bickering, seems further off than ever. The plain man, as well as the far-sighted thinker, is now aware that (as the Archbishop of York reminded the Lambeth Conference last month in a farewell message) our Western civilisation may quite well be going the way of at least eighteen others that have perished since men began to make history.

The Christian Church, from the first generation, has had to face such prospects before, and never with "It's all up" or "What's the use?" To the little family of it at Thessalonica, obsessed with the belief that the end of the world was at hand, St. Paul wrote his short second letter, sternly bidding them put such ideas from their minds; the duty of every man of them, he said, was to preserve discipline and go on with his daily work. And this brave counsel can stand us all in good stead now. Against the dark background of world upheaval Toc H has to maintain its close-knit fellowship, its cheerful self-discipline, and to see to its tasks.

Now is the time for an 'Autumn-cleaning', a physical and mental refurbishing, in preparation for a good winter's work. To start with the most elementary things, most of our meeting places ask for a lick of paint, a shift of furniture, a sense of newness. Then we need to freshen our minds, to reconsider the pattern of our weekly meetings, to plan a programme, to add a dash of imagination to our jobs, perhaps even to read and study

a bit. And then—the man-power we have and the more we need. What about those holiday friendships we have made? Fresh recruits, new ideas? There is so much to be done. Go to it, and good success!

Toc H in India & Pakistan

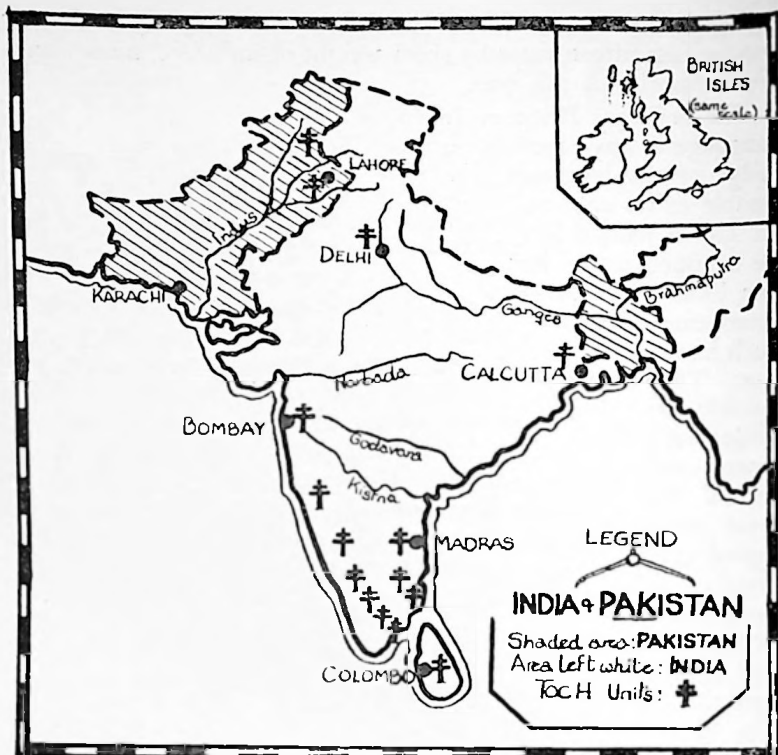
This article, reprinted from the June number of The Link of Toc H Australia, represents the Indian point of view of the great task challenging the small membership of our movement in the two new Dominions. The writer is RAJAM D. PAUL, editor of The Lamp of Toc H India and Pakistan, who is Secretary to the Government of Madras.

THE SITUATION IN INDIA is vastly different from that in any other country where Toc H is functioning. In all the other lands where Toc H has been established there is a practically homogeneous population which is at least in name Christian: here we have in India an almost wholly non-Christian country where the Christian population is a very small minority, and the English-speaking section of it literally microscopically small. The scope for Toc H life and activity in India is therefore very small indeed. It must also be mentioned, not as criticism but as a historical fact, that very naturally in the early years Toc H in this country practically confined itself to the Britishers, both civil and military, and encouraged only a very few Indians to come in and that of a particularly uncommon type, the largely Anglicised type above a certain social line. The natural and inevitable result was that the membership of Toc H in India even in its palmiest days never went above 700, scattered over forty different places in this vast sub-continent, with but a sprinkling of Indian Christians, giving the impression that Toc H was primarily a British affair and not a Christian affair. The British community in this country, consisting as it does and has always done, of "burra sahibs" in business or in the Government, and affluent

far above the average level of the country, was able to run Toc H for the first fifteen years by sheer weight of influence, money and the memories of the war.

The ordinary Britisher in India hardly ever learns the local language to any practical purpose, and without a working knowledge of the language of the people Toc H men were quite unable to do any service to or work among the Indians. Even in Toc H jobs, if he went to visit a hospital his attention had to be confined to the English-speaking folk there; and if he visited the local penitentiary he had necessarily to contact only the European or Anglo-Indian inmates. It was obvious that under such handicaps Toc H could not make much headway and it did not. Then came the war with its complete uprooting of all normal life. All the younger men went away, and the few senior men left in Toc H concentrated, rightly, on work for the troops, and almost wholly for the non-Indian troops. Of the several Talbot Houses run for servicemen in India only two were intended for Indian troops. Civilian Toc H practically ceased to exist, and several Toc H units had to close down completely. When the war was over they could not be revived on the old basis because the numbers of members had been sadly depleted, and the few that were left were war-weary and strained and unfit for ordinary Toc H life and activity. But the war had this good effect on Toc H, namely, that it showed that Toc H can never be run successfully by the handful of non-Indian Christians in the country. It could run only if it took into account the local Christians. No Talbot House or canteen run by Toc H for servicemen during the war could have worked as well as in fact it did, had it not been for several Indian voluntary helpers. And so while there occurred a large decrease in the European membership of Toc H in India, there took place also a correspondingly large increase in the Indian membership.

Then came the political changes in the country by which the administration of the country passed into Indian hands. It soon became quite clear that Toc H in the country must also change correspondingly. Thenceforth its membership and its leadership must be mainly (but certainly not wholly, which God forbid) Indian. The leaders of Toc H both in India and in England



saw this quite clearly and encouraged the change in every way they could. As a prelude the honorary Editorship of *The Lamp*, the Toc H journal of India, was placed in the hands of an Indian Editor, for the first time in its history, at the beginning of the year 1946. This is the transformation now taking place in India that Toc H is no longer associated with the Britisher in India mainly, but is becoming more and more Indian, and Christian in the sense that it is now more inter-racial than it has been hitherto, and it is now getting a stronger emphasis on its Christian character than ever before. Released thus from its early inhibitions Toc H in India is on the threshold of a large expansion, and a new orientation both in life and in activity.

Except for a period of about six years between 1930 and 1936, Toc H in India never had a whole time staff to work for it. This has been a great handicap. But the time has come when it can no longer do without one. Toc H is now needed in India more than ever. It is the one organisation or movement with an undiluted emphasis on Christian living as the basis, and the one Christian society which, working in close co-operation with the Church in the land, will give the nation that spiritual under-girding which is its primary need at the present moment. We must therefore make Toc H in India as strong and as widespread as it is possible to do; and so intensify its spiritual life that it will become a potent force in the character-redemption on which the whole future of the Indian people vitally depends. At the moment Toc H in India is quite small in numbers, but there will soon be a great expansion. It has already begun. The membership of Toc H, which was at the end of the war just about 150 all told, has now gone up to 350, divided between twenty units; and I venture to predict that, God willing, it will be 3,500 within the next ten years, if we now in Toc H in this country are true to our calling.

And it is now more than ever that we want the world-wide international character of Toc H to be emphasised, and we want our affinities with Toc H the world over made practical and perceptible. We are planning for a real living contact with Toc H in every other country where it is working, by an interchange of correspondence, by an exchange of thoughts and by closer co-operation in our activities. We want units in India to get into touch with the units in England, in Australia, in New Zealand, in South Africa and in South America and form Toc H friendships which will demonstrate the universal character of Christianity and of Toc H. We want to spread Toc H into the villages of India among the non-English-speaking Indian Christian folk; make it take deep roots in the life of the indigenous Christian community. As long as it is confined to the major towns and to the English-educated people only, it is never going to become a national institution playing a vital part in the life of the nation. And in this re-building of Toc H in this country we ask for the prayers and the active participation of the whole family of Toc H everywhere.

R.D.P.

Allswell that Ends Well—IV.

In our last instalment the young group at Allswell had received visitors from the old Branch at Gobbleston and is now seen playing a return match—with serious consequences.

One Point of View

A GOBBLESTON MEMBER TO A FRIEND

Dear Arthur,

It was a real pleasure to hear from you again, after all these years—the second war, like the first, has made so many gaps in one's friendships. There are gaps too in Gobbleston, for we had one very heavy air-raid which altered the top end of the High Street so that you would not know it. However the old place is settling down again as well as the present gang in power permits. (*Further political comment at this point is omitted—Ed.*) . . . Even church work is not what it used to be. We have a new Dean at the Cathedral now, who is making a lot of changes in the services. So I have given up being a sidesman. It is such a pity that new brooms will not leave well alone!

You ask me about the Toc H Branch. Soon after you left us for U.S.A.—was that '38?—some members were beginning to agitate about 'new blood'. I could never see much wrong with the Branch then; we had a very steady little crowd of men who knew each other and understood one another's little ways. We had made our room very cosy and the weekly meeting was a pleasure, no friction or fuss. The jobs were going well—I used to enjoy the hospital library and the old folks tea at Christmas. But a few people seemed bent on disturbing the harmony with new fangled theories about our mission in the town, and some of the visitors they brought along struck me as rank outsiders, if you know what I mean. Personally I wished John Leader, as Chairman, had kept a tighter hand on all this, but I began to suspect that he was losing his balance too.

Then the war came and broke it all up. The younger members joined up at once, of course, and most of them did extremely well. Clarky won a D.S.O. early on and ended up as a

Brigadier. Young Jeremy (you'll remember him) went down in *Prince of Wales*, Hepworth's boy was killed flying over Berlin and two fine youngsters died in Japanese hands.

Meanwhile half a dozen of us older chaps, all founder members of the Branch, kept things going as well as we could. It wasn't too easy, for most of us were working overtime in business and, of course, all of us were on fire-watching and Civil Defence, etc. (I had a Home Guard platoon), but there were always at least two or three down at the room for a spell on Thursday nights to take 'Light' and remember the youngsters on active service. I was President of Rotary at the time and got them to put up a bit of money for Toc H to furnish a Services Club in an empty shop in Slaughtergate and we roped in a big team (over forty before the end) of wives and friends to help us run it. The place did a good job in the five years it was open. It was a really friendly show, I think: the troops often said so.

The Club took all our spare time and when it closed the Branch itself had pretty well faded out, as far as meetings were concerned. I, for one, was rather inclined to leave it at that. For one thing, we had done our bit; for another, as I told them, there soon won't be any call for Toc H jobs now that the Government is 'nationalising' social service and playing Old Harry with it. But John Leader, who founded our Branch and regards it as his child, would not call it a day—you know how obstinate he is. After months of bother he got our old room derequisitioned and cleaned up (the troops had burned the skirting and cupboards in Shinwell's Winter of '46), and we started a regular Thursday meeting again.

It can't ever be quite the same as the old days, of course, but I had hoped we should settle down with what is left of our experienced membership, plus a few younger men being carefully picked so that they fitted in. But we could see that John was not satisfied, and soon the old hares about 'new blood' for the 'new times' started to run again. It is disappointing that so few of our younger members, when they were demobbed, ever came near us for some reason, and the young ex-service men John invited—nice enough chaps but with different ideas of their own and no notion how a Toc H Branch ought to be run—came once

but never again. I am therefore becoming confirmed in my view that Toc H has done its job in Gobbleston and had better close quietly down. I owe much to the movement in the past and so as not to lose touch altogether, shall apply for General Membership. I only hope that the Branch will not squander its old reputation by embarking on any ill-considered and scatter-brain schemes: I like it too well to wish it such a fate.

Now we have recovered contact, write again soon. And tell me more about Maisie and the children . . . HOWARD.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

My Dear Arthur,

Many thanks for your long letter with all the family news. I am delighted to hear of your Jim's success at Harvard. . . .

I cannot quite follow your argument why I should stick to Gobbleston Branch. Probably it is easier for you, living in a new country, to reconcile yourself to constant change and to adapt yourself to it. Our Branch is not likely to listen to any advice from me, for the younger end of it is in a hurry "to get things done" and, like so many other things in this country nowadays, it seems to me to be riding for a fall. The last straw was our meeting last week, and I was only thankful I had not invited my partner to it, as I half intended to do. He is a good substantial fellow, about my age, and might have been a steadying influence if he had decided to join us. But the behaviour of our other guests that night would have scared him off finally.

I don't want to bore you, but briefly what happened was this. There is a new little Group (we are told to spell it with a small 'g' nowadays for some reason I have never properly understood) at Allswell. It was started by a young ex-service man and a few of his friends, nice enough lads but with little experience of the world and none of Toc H as you and I have known it. They put their foot in it soon after their foundation and stirred up bad feeling between the Church and the Non-conformists, I am told, but their intentions are doubtless good. Some weeks ago a few of our senior members went over to give them a little encouragement, and John Leader, who is rather taken up with them, suggested that we should ask them back.

In order to give a little more time the meeting was fixed, rather inconveniently for some of us, on a Saturday; they came over in the afternoon to see the Cathedral and have tea before the meeting.

Our members met them at the coach station and they arrived, a dozen strong, on top of a bus—singing. That gave rather a bad impression at the start, I thought, but the other passengers appeared to be enjoying it. Indeed the Allswell members seem to have struck up a sudden friendship on the short journey with three of them (one a very down-at-heels looking individual) and asked leave to tack them on to our party for the rest of the day.

Then we set off for the Cathedral, where John had arranged for the Dean to meet us. He is a new man, as I think I told you, rather too young and inexperienced for his position, in my opinion. We were late for our appointment because the Allswell men insisted on wandering all over a bombed site we had to cross. They hatched some wild scheme on the spot about a 'Junk Playground' for children, which Toc H might get going.* I told them that the site was the Council's business, not ours, and would be built on in a few years' time, but that did not seem to deter them. When they were introduced to the Dean at last they had to tell him all about their idea and, to my surprise, he promised to go into the project with the Mayor.

We had wasted enough time and now got down to seeing the Cathedral. That, as you know, takes a good hour with a guide, but it took us nearer two because the Allswell men, being young, would not miss anything, not even that long, dusty walk round the triforium and the view from the tower. I must say the Dean had his facts well and made history live picturesquely enough. At the end an Allswell member said what a pity it was that every visitor (there are a lot of strangers on Saturday afternoons) could not have a guide as soon as the Dean. Couldn't there be a rota of laymen (he mentioned Toc H) who would "mug it up", as he expressed it? If so he would like to give a few hours a month to it himself. This

* A Danish idea—Any reader interested should apply to the Organising Secretary, The National Under Fourteens' Council, Mary Ward Settlement, London, W.C.1 (Eus. 1942) for a leaflet on the subject.

seemed to me in rather questionable taste, for the Cathedral is the business of nobody but its own staff, but the Dean appeared to welcome the idea.

Then there was tea in St. Jude's parish room, after which the guests insisted on washing up. They positively drove the caretaker's wife from the kitchen and served tea to her in the hall, and they sang absurd choruses while they were working. I don't know what the Vicarage people next door thought of this pandemonium: it was all of a piece with their boisterous behaviour throughout.

The meeting itself started well, with our Chairman welcoming the visitors and giving them some very sound advice about cultivating the right spirit in Toc H. Then John suggested that they should "put on a turn" he had seen at an Allswell meeting. Without warning one of them (Sir Somebody Chase, the squire of Allswell, I was told) shouted "Shoes off!" In a moment they were in their stockinged feet, and then he shouted "Now, boys—over the sticks!", and they began, like monkeys or madmen, to climb all round the room on our furniture. The object of this childish performance seemed to be not to touch the only rational place for a grown-up man to use, the floor. Several of our younger men caught this lunacy and joined in. John Leader, old enough to know better, crashed off the mantelpiece, dislodging our banner, and was lucky to get away with a slightly sprained wrist. You can picture the noise and confusion before they had settled down again, hot and dishevelled, in their places. I was thoroughly disgusted.

Worse was to follow. There was no more rowdiness, but the talk which Charles Brick, the Allswell Secretary, gave us seemed to me far more insidious. He is a likeable young man, not very well educated (he talked of a Christian's duty to "go all hay-wire" in the face of some established custom he does not happen to think right). Not having known a Toc H Branch like ours, which by its quiet work has won the confidence of a very respectable circle in the town, he pleaded that we should open our ranks to Tom, Dick and Harry, to the unbeliever as well as the sound Churchman, to "all our neighbours of goodwill"—the kind of sentimental phrase to which, thinking of some

of my neighbours, I can attach no real meaning. Throughout he seemed to regard our movement not as a well-established and orderly institution but as some kind of experiment ("as revolutionary as the early Christians or the first Quakers", he actually said). His references to "preserving a sense of humour" were lost on me, after what had passed, and I thought his plans to involve Toc H in jobs which are properly the province of the Church or the Borough Council highly dangerous. I cannot give you an adequate report of his address. It was not even its matter so much as its manner—so full of slap-dash enthusiasm—which alarmed me. If this so-called "spirit of adventure" is to take the place in Toc H of the solid achievement we have known over the years, I feel more than ever that I have no place in it. I have tried to serve my turn and regretfully yield my place to a new generation, sincere, no doubt, but too cocksure for my liking.

I did not intend so long a letter, but that evening still rankles. When you write, give me your frank opinion on this new trend in things.

HOWARD.

Another Point of View

JOHN LEADER TO DISTRICT SECRETARY

Dear Fortissimo,

Sorry I missed you on Tuesday night. I meant to tell you about our Saturday 'do', when the Allswell crowd came over as our guests. I warned you that I was trying this out to see if it would loosen the joints of our old Gobblestonians a bit. I am not too hopeful of the results: it was a little too much new wine in old bottles!

Well, the whole group came over by bus in the early afternoon, in a very cheerful mood. My word, they are fast movers! Right away they spotted a chance of a new job nobody had thought of—a children's playground on a bombed site, but our members did not bite very hard on it, I am afraid. The Dean (we kept him waiting a bit, I fear, by chewing over this job) went all out to help us. He took the notion about the playground right away and may get something done on his own. He also welcomed a sporting offer from an Allswell lad to help

with visitors to the Cathedral on Saturdays, and he did us proud with the sights. He would make a great Branch padre, if he had the time, but I fear the present members would not stand for it—he's not *safe* enough!

Was the evening meeting a success? Yes and no. Allswell tried to warm it up with a very noisy game, out of which some of us got (literally) a kick and others rather a shock, I am afraid. And then Chas talked—I thought to good purpose. He is not really a speaker, as you know, but he carries it off by his sheer sincerity and good sense. I don't think any of our members could doubt the first, but I'm pretty sure some of them would deny him the second. He put over Toc H as a day-to-day adventure in living in his own way. It was the Gospel all right, but that was never popular with some listeners, especially the good people. Gobbleston orthodoxy found it too crude, too near the bone, to be digestible and have said so since. They open with "Well, if *that's* Toc H—", and old Howard, for one, is for packing up on the strength (or, he would say, weakness) of it. He told me he had written to you about General membership. It might be the right thing; let's talk about it when we meet next week.

Taking it all round, I don't fancy my tonic has worked much. The Branch is end-of-the-twenties vintage and justly proud of it, but it has got stuck in the end-of-the-thirties furrow, which was a rather dim one, seems to me, too narrow for a man to exercise his vision properly from. The founder fathers of the Branch, like Howard, are as sterling chaps as you can meet, but they have lost all their spring. Lightheartedness seems to them merely emptyheadedness. Young folks are too restless in mind and body for them, newness bothers them.

So, if the old crowd I've worked with so long and like so much continue to harp on winding up the Branch, I shall be sorry but shan't stand in their way. It is sad for them but probably good for Toc H, which mustn't forget that it owes them a debt for their faithfulness in hard times.

But I tell you what, F.F., I am not packing up. When our Lamp has gone into store I'll lead the youngsters into the wilderness and collect a few more lost lads there, and then we'll come back and claim it again, after serving our proper

apprentice time. Better make a clean break with the old and, if God will, be born again. Don't you agree? JOHN.

Gobbleston est mort, vive Gobbleston!

DISTRICT SECRETARY TO SOUTH MIDLANDS AREA SECRETARY

Dear Flip,

John Leader warned me last week that Gobbleston members were likely to wind up the Branch. Today they have sent me their Lamp to hand on for safe keeping to the Area Guard of the Lamp.

This has been pending for some time, as you know, and will not take you by surprise. In the circumstances it is surely the proper solution, however regrettable. The strong point is that John, after a decent interval for the funeral, is out to build a new group with a couple of young members plus new recruits. So the Lamp is unlikely to be left in cold storage for very long.

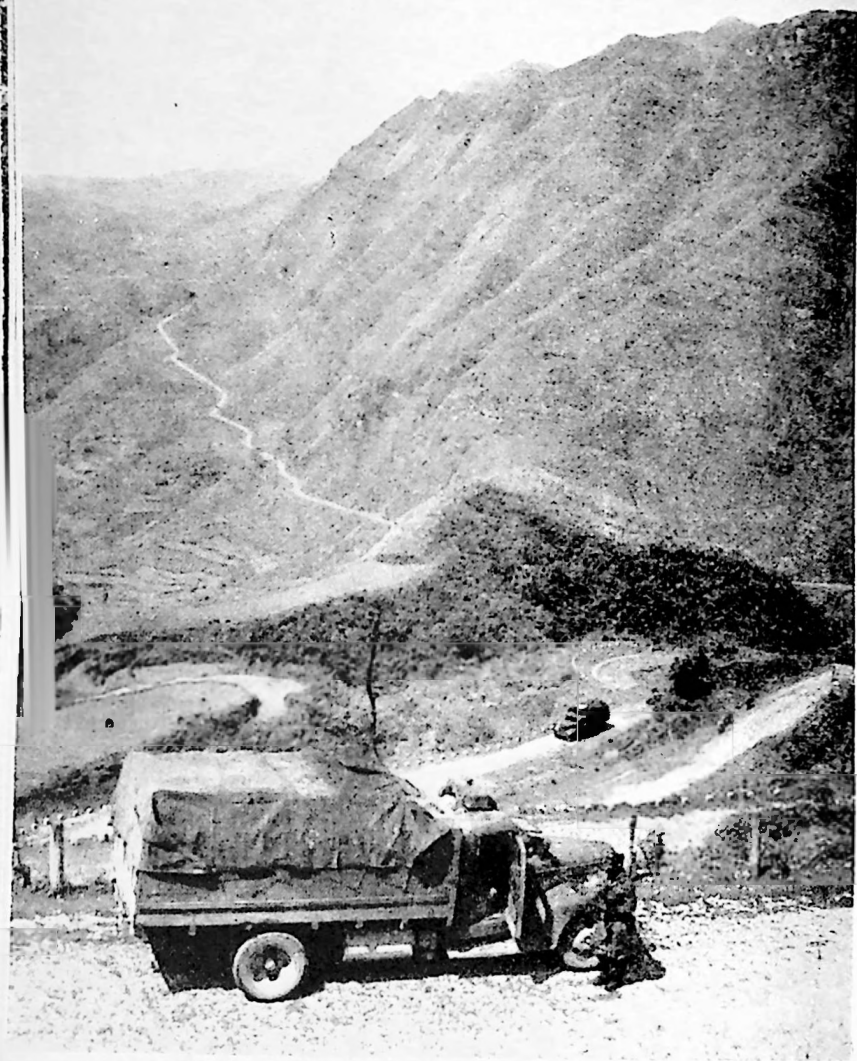
F.F.

To Sum Up

Fathers and sons notoriously are apt to fall out of sympathy with each other's ideas, and the succeeding generations of Toc H, 'pre-war' and 'post-war', do not always see eye to eye. The elderly members of Gobbleston are old soldiers of Toc H, apparently over age to march any longer with the column. They have deserved well of the movement and have earned honourable retirement. They don't ask for thanks, but they don't merit blame. The young members of Allswell have not been in action long enough to learn the wisdom of the old campaigner, but they have the gifts of imagination and dash. Possibly the gaiety of their invasion of Gobbleston was misjudged; if it was thoughtless it was never ill-natured.

And the moral of it all is that Toc H is meant to be a movement that moves, not a society that stays put. If the elders can go on moving, good luck to them: they are of immense value in teaching and steadying the younger ranks. But if they have come to a halt (sometimes without realising it—that's the tragedy) they should step aside to let the new generation pass. That is what Gobbleston, feeling itself outmoded in the tactics and weapons of a new age, has now done.

BALBUS.



The Road of the Twenty-Four Hair-Pins.

Yes—It Can be Done

“LOOK AT THEM ‘EADLINES!’” the man on the other side of my newspaper in the tube last night remarked to his neighbour. “Look at them! Is there *anybody* who can get the Communists to agree to *anything* these days?” In answer to this question, which must be in the minds of many at the moment, let me quote to you one or two extracts from a report that we received the other day:

“Discussions were held with the [Communist] officials . . . These were at all times most cordial and friendly, and there was a mutual concern to work out a co-operative and satisfactory agreement . . . The Communist representatives exhibited an understanding of our desire to be impartial and do work also on the side of the National Government . . . They recognised that we were one of the few groups working impartially on both sides and as such recognised the importance to them of our continued work . . . ”

To what does this refer? For the answer, we shall have to look round to the other side of the globe to where, in China, the Civil War is being fought with increasing intensity. One would hesitate to dismiss the Chinese Civil War as merely a “hot” extension of the “cold war” nearer home. True, it has the common feature of being a struggle for power between Right and Left; but, further, it is a struggle between extreme factions of both sides. It is, therefore, all the more remarkable that, with the cognizance and approval of both sides, an impartial relief programme is being carried on at this moment in both Nationalist and Communist territory.

The organisation responsible for this programme is the Friends (Quaker) Service Unit, China. Many of you will have heard of the war-time Friends’ Ambulance Unit, whose members served in many parts of the world, and you will therefore need little introduction to the Friends’ Service Unit, which is the F.A.U.’s post-war successor in China. Its forty-odd voluntary members, who come from Britain, America, New Zealand and China itself, are motivated by the desire to serve suffering

humanity wherever the need may exist, without regard to such obstacles as nationality or political belief; and today we find them able to do this in a manner which is almost unequalled elsewhere in the world.

After the end of the Japanese War, though much of the transport and medical work in West China was maintained, the main centre of F.S.U. activity was moved to Honan province, in Central China. Honan, extensively damaged during the Japanese War, was now threatened by the Civil War; and the outstanding challenge confronting the F.S.U. included not only a vast need for physical reconstruction, but also an opportunity for demonstrating the impartiality of F.S.U. service.

The Honan work, opened in Nationalist territory, had small beginnings. Chungmou, a flood- and bomb-damaged town on the crumbling banks of the Yellow River, was chosen as the headquarters of the rehabilitation work. Unit members worked with the Chinese on the reconstruction of their sources of livelihood, teaching them modern methods, caring for their health, and introducing them to the principles of co-operation as a means of benefiting the community.

Already, early in 1946, a Unit convoy had succeeded in getting through to Yenan, the Communist capital, with a valuable cargo of medical supplies; and to follow this up, negotiations were opened with the aim of establishing a Unit medical team in Communist territory. At the end of the year, it was possible to fly a team of six (two doctors, two nurses, one laboratory and one X-ray technician) to Yenan, with which road communications were now severed. Their work was limited in scope by the difficult conditions under which they worked, especially as, in retreating with the Communists before the Nationalist advance, they were constantly on the move. In practical results achieved, the scales were undoubtedly tipped in favour of the work in Nationalist territory where, in addition to the now flourishing Chungmou rehabilitation project, drug transport, leprosy treatment and, later, malaria control were also undertaken. Yet, as a practical gesture of impartial goodwill, the work of the team in Communist territory was invaluable. It paved the way for the success of the subsequent ambitious negotiations, the reports on which I quoted earlier.

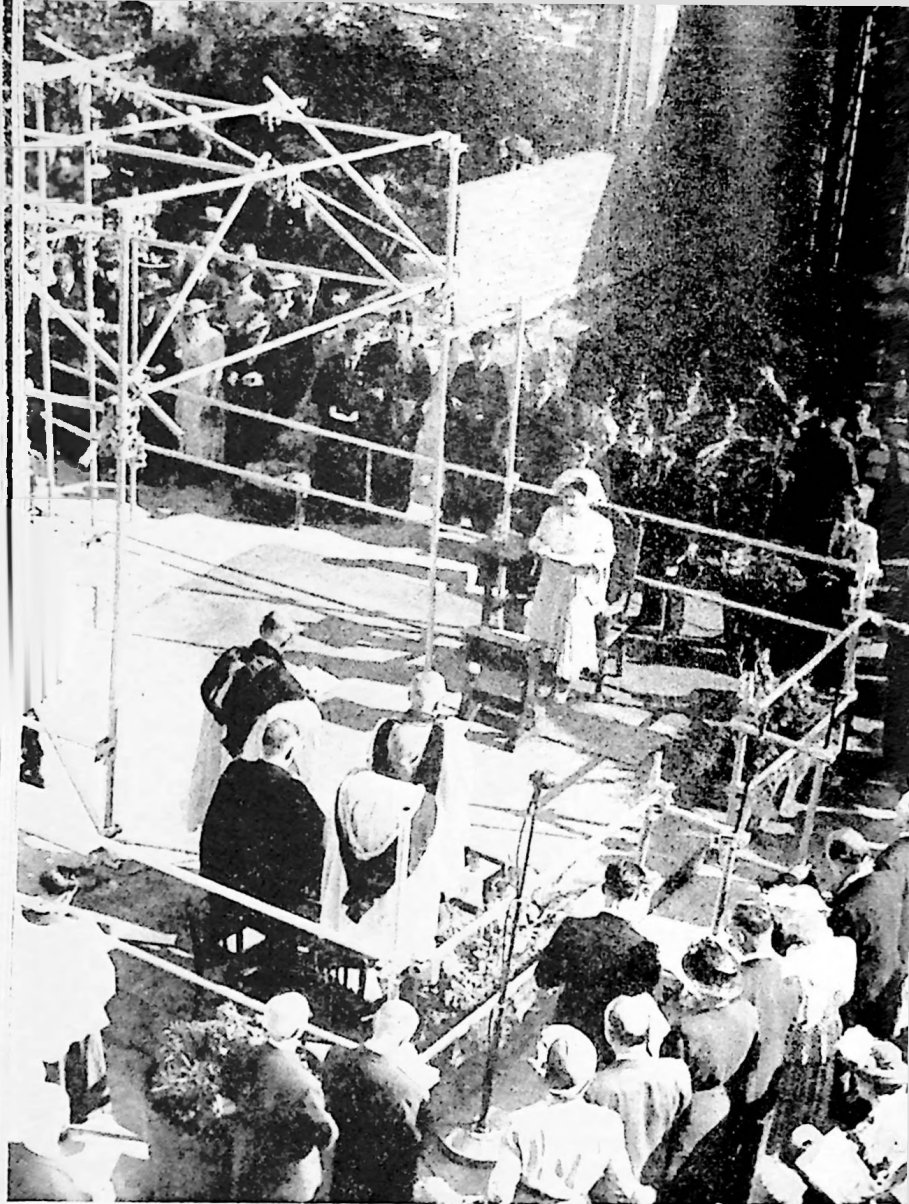


An operation in Communist territory.

Chungmou is now in disputed territory. Twice it has been taken by the Communists, and twice it has been retaken by the Nationalists. Yet, as the report goes on to say, "it should be emphasised that the whole Chungmou project carried on normally throughout the entire excitement . . . and all projects continued operations . . ." The Unit's work has continued unhindered—because Nationalists and Communists alike, usually in bitter disagreement, have both agreed that it should. It is therefore essential that the Unit should be reinforced with all the necessary funds and reinforcements that can be mustered. Only in this way can full use be made of the permission which has been obtained from both sides to expand the work in both directions, with guarantees of protection; and we are looking to the British public to back up this opportunity.

Is the goodwill which the F.S.U. has evoked from both Nationalists and Communists in China merely an isolated and inimitable exception, in this world of black headlines telling of increasing ill will? Or is it a sign that impartial service to one's fellow men can, in the end, succeed? I leave it to you to decide.

MARK W. JONES (F.S.U. 1945-48)



H.M. The Queen speaks.

All Hallows Resurgens

TOWER HILL WAS BRIGHT with bunting and multi-coloured flags fluttering in the sunshine when the Queen came there on Monday, July 19, to lay the foundation stone of the new north aisle of All Hallows, Berkyngechirche, the portion which will again house the parent Lamp of Toc H and will be restored, with the help of our family, as the special shrine of the movement. The shell of the old blitzed church was packed to capacity with a widely representative congregation, and in the neighbouring Trinity Square gardens a huge marquee held an equally diverse 'overflow' of 1,200 people.

The arrival of Her Majesty, escorted by Yeoman Warders from the Tower of London and heralded by a fanfare of trumpets, was signal for the simple service to commence with the singing of the National Anthem, followed by these words, spoken by the Founder Padre:

"Today, All Hallows begins to rise again, not only as the earliest parish Church within the City, but as the Guild Church of a scattered family of Christian faith and unpretentious practice."

Soon, the Foundation Stone, a granite block hewn and given by Toc H St. Ives, being lowered into position, was dedicated by the Bishop of London. Then was heard the voice of the Queen, speaking in a firm and clear tone, after she had well and truly laid the stone.

The choir of St. Peter ad Vincula now sounded a joyous note singing the 150th Psalm, and then came the opening strains of "Praise my soul, the King of Heaven", played by the band of the Grenadier Guards and taken up by a 'congregation' stretching far beyond the walls of the roofless church.

Prayers for All Hallows and Toc H were followed by a Blessing, after which there rang out, for the first time, a carillon of eighteen bells—a gift from Canada.

Through a lane in the crowds came a procession, wending its way across Tower Hill—led by the Bishop of London in cope and mitre, and followed by banners of Toc H Branches, no less than 120 of them, borne by members mainly from London and the Home Counties. Their richly coloured emblems made a brave show as their bearers, two by two, traversed ground which for many centuries has held high place in the pageant of English history.

Then came the Queen herself, looking radiant and happy, frequently pausing to exchange a friendly word with fellow members and civic dignitaries. Passing on to Trinity Square, Tubby presented to Her Majesty the small band of Winant Volunteers, a group of young American students who, at their own expense, are spending their vacations in London on social service and who had, but a few minutes earlier, been sharing with Toc H members the task of stewarding the big assembly.

After the Queen had left, a steady flow of members and friends could be seen streaming purposefully across the Hill towards Tower Pier, deflected only by the solitary coffee stall which was experiencing bumper business. Chance played no part in the direction taken, for this was in accord with Tubby's plan for a nautical Guest Night as a fitting wind-up to the day's great doings. The good ship *Crested Eagle* had been put under charter to Toc H but the overwhelming demand for places made this hopelessly insufficient and eventually five vessels were employed.

The early part of the down Thames voyage was enlivened by a running commentary on riverside landmarks, delivered by Tubby from the bridge of the *Crested Eagle*. Then followed many musical items given by Billingsgate friends from a repertoire both varied and vigorous, and interspersed with 'numbers' from Tubby which included both "Knocked 'em in the Old Kent Road" and Tennyson's "Revenge".

All too soon came the time to 'put about' and as the leading boat came in sight of Tower Bridge, with its twin bascules already raised to re-admit her, a hush fell on the company and shore-going prayers were said while the vessel slid smoothly to berth. So ended yet another memorable chapter in Toc H's varied story.

A Toc H Quiz

A quiz is becoming as ancient and common a game as a Brains Trust. It demands more work of the audience and a factual knowledge rather than any expression of opinion. It can be one pleasant method of education.

The Quiz that follows offers itself to be drawn upon to fill some lighter moments at a Toc H Branch meeting or a training session. To a large extent it is a test of the detailed knowledge acquired from reading the Toc H JOURNAL and other literature. It goes beyond the personal experience of any one man. Some of the questions are historical; most are bound to be central or general in character. The setting of more local or personal ones (e.g. Nos. 1 and 44) will not tax a leader's imagination.

A Quiz such as this is intended for amusement. It will be informative as well if the leader is prepared to supplement some answers with a brief explanation. He can ask each member to write down the number of each question and the letter (A, B, C, D or E) corresponding to the answer, the correct one being given at the time or at the end of each six or so. Or the leader can divide the group into two or three teams and put one question to each team in turn, scoring three points for the right answer first time and two or one after an incorrect answer.

The answers are printed on page 304. Before looking them up, the individual member may wish to test himself. If he gets thirty-five right out of forty-two first time, not counting guesses, he can claim a good and wide general knowledge. Try it!

1. The present chairman of our Area Executive is:
A. B. C. D. E.
2. The Founder Padre, "Tubby", was born in:
A. London. B. Scotland. C. Australia.
D. New Zealand. E. U.S.A.
3. A Branch Executive is appointed by:
A. The District Officers. B. The Branch Officers. C. The Area Executive.
D. The Branch Members. E. The District Team.
4. One of these has not been an Administrator of Toc H:
A. Hubert Secretan. B. Harry Willink. C. Peter Monie.
D. Harold Howe. E. W. J. Lake Lake.

5. Talbot House Club for Seafaring Boys is at:
A. Southampton. B. Malta. C. Liverpool.
D. Alexandria. E. Colombo.
6. The phrase "To fight at all costs" occurs in:
A. The Four Points of the Compass.
B. The Main Resolution.
C. The Objects of Toc H (in the Royal Charter).
D. The Prayer of St. Ignatius Loyola (used by the Women's Section).
E. The Toc H Prayer.
7. "Constable Division" is the name given to part of an Area in:
A. Lakeland. B. West Midlands. C. East Yorkshire.
D. East Anglia. E. The Metropolitan Police Area.
8. Mark XVIII (18) is a Toc H House in:
A. Newcastle. B. Leeds. C. Salford. D. Swindon. E. Denmark Hill, London.
9. One of these went round the world with "Tubby" in 1925 and helped to lay the foundations of Toc H overseas:
A. Barclay Baron. B. Herbert Fleming. C. Pat Leonard.
D. Peter Monie. E. Bobs Ford.
10. "The New Forum" is the quarterly journal edited by:
A. Ian Fraser. B. Colin Stevenson. C. Shaun Herron.
D. Herbert Leggate. E. Alec Churcher.
11. Blackfriars 5874 is the telephone number of the Area Office in:
A. Lincoln. B. London. C. Cardiff. D. Exeter. E. Manchester.
12. The Scottish member serving on the Central Executive is:
A. Ray Fawcett. B. Melville Dinwiddie. C. Angus Macdonald.
D. Keith Fraser. E. Lyndsay Orr.
13. According to estimates, the total money staked in Britain on horses, dogs and football pools amounted in 1946 to:
A. £57,000. B. £570,000. C. £5,700,000.
D. £57,000,000. E. £570,000,000.
14. One of these phrases is in common use in Toc H:
A. "They shall not grow old."
B. "To check all bitterness."
C. "To create hate."
D. "To preach the Gospel without spreading it."
E. "To foster in every man a wide human interest."
15. One of these books was written by "Tubby":
A. Plain Tales from Flanders. D. Toc H under weigh.
B. The Time has come. E. The Toc H Padre.
C. The Birth of a Movement.
16. The Central Executive is elected by:
A. Area Executives. B. Branches. C. Central Council.
D. District Teams. E. Annual Conference.
17. Gladstone House is in:
A. Leicester. B. Leeds. C. Lincoln. D. Liverpool. E. London.
18. By long-established custom, the Branch members have no power to appoint their:
A. Jobmaster. B. Pilot. C. Padre. D. Chairman. E. Secretary.
19. One of these wrote the booklet entitled "Toc H and Money":
A. Reg Staton. B. Jack Harrison. C. John Callf.
D. Paul Slessor. E. Harold Howe.

20. Harold Lewis is:
A. The Warden of Brotherton House, Leeds.
B. The South Wales Area Secretary.
C. The Western Australian Area Secretary.
D. The Chairman of Toc H in India.
E. The East Midlands Area Secretary.
21. A Branch elects two members to serve on:
A. The Area Executive. B. The Central Council. C. The District Team.
D. The Branch Executive. E. The Area Guard of the Lamp.
22. The Cavendish Association was a society:
A. For men who went to the Duke of York's Camp.
B. Founded in Bermondsey.
C. For nurses who visited Talbot House, Poperinghe.
D. Incorporated in Toc H in 1921.
E. For Service Ordinands in World War I.
23. At an initiation the reply to the question "What is Service?" is "The rent we pay for our room on earth". This phrase is attributed to:
A. G. K. Chesterton. B. Miss Beale. C. Lord Halifax.
D. Socrates. E. Florence Nightingale.
24. The original Toc H Mark I was opened in:
A. Trafalgar Square. B. Kensington. C. Knutsford.
D. Cheltenham. E. Red Lion Square.
25. One of these sets of initials has nothing to do with disease:
A. A.D.M.S. B. C.M.S. C. B.E.L.R.A. D. C.H. E. Q.A.I.M.N.S.
26. "The Time Has Come" is a booklet about:
A. Extension. B. Toc H Overseas. C. The Branch Secretary.
D. Toc H Marks. E. Jobmastery.
27. One of these has not been the chairman of the Central Executive:
A. Sutherland Graeme. B. Alec Paterson. C. Donald Campbell.
D. Lord Forster. E. Sir Frederick Bain.
28. The Central Council consists mainly of representatives of:
A. District Teams. B. Branches. C. Branch Executives.
D. Area Executives. E. The Central Executive.
29. The Bursar of Toc H is:
A. John Hawkey. B. Jack Harrison. C. Ken Rogers.
D. Ken Bloxham. E. Morley Jacob.
30. Hubert Secretan wrote the book entitled:
A. The Road Ahead. B. Towards Toc H. C. Across the Bridges.
D. Toc H under Weigh. E. The Birth of a Movement.
31. There is a Lone Unit of Toc H in:
A. Madagascar. B. Cyprus. C. Jamaica.
D. Sumatra. E. St. Helena.
32. The Western Area Padre of Toc H is:
A. Gilbert Williams. B. Reg Smith. C. John Jones.
D. Sawbones. E. Greeno.
33. Talbot House, Poperinghe, was given to Toc H by:
A. Lord Brotherton. B. Paul Slessor. C. Lord Wakefield.
D. Lord Plumer. E. The Burgomaster of Ypres.

34. The Hon. Commissioner of Toc H in Southern Africa is :
 A. General Smuts. B. Don Rogers. C. Sir Herbert Stanley.
 D. Jan Hofmeyr. E. Freddy Snell.
35. Toc H has never yet had any Branches in :
 A. Holland. B. Palestine. C. Italy.
 D. U.S.A. E. Russia.
36. William A. Hurst is the :
 A. District Secretary. B. Area Padre. C. Overseas Secretary.
 D. Hon. Treasurer. E. Chairman of the Central Executive.
37. There is a Toc H Mark in :
 A. Rio de Janeiro. B. Toronto. C. Cape Town. D. Melbourne. E. Bombay.
38. The Deputy Commissioner of Toc H in New Zealand is :
 A. L. E. LeMaitre ("Lemon"). B. Sir Frederick Bowerbank. C. Jack Shaw.
 D. Herbert Leggate. E. Dudley Mathews.
39. The Toc H Lamp of Maintenance was designed by :
 A. Barclay Baron. B. Leonard Browne. C. Miss Macfie.
 D. Tubby. E. General May.
40. One of these is a President of Toc H :
 A. Lord Gowrie. B. Sir Stafford Cripps. C. Lord Clarendon.
 D. The Duke of Devonshire. E. The Archbishop of York.
41. In December, 1947, the World Chain of Light was started in :
 A. Berlin. B. Buenos Aires. C. London.
 D. Jerusalem. E. The Channel Islands.
42. A recent number of the Toc H JOURNAL has continued an article on :
 A. Railways in Argentina.
 B. The Church Lads' Brigade.
 C. Petrol Rationing.
 D. Coal-mining in Derbyshire.
 E. The Seafarers' Education Service.
43. The monthly journal of Toc H in Australia is called :
 A. The Link. B. The Lamp. C. The Mark.
 D. The Compass. E. The Chronicle..
44. The leader of this Quiz was born in :
 A. 1889. B. 18.... C. 19.... D. 19.... E. 1923.

Ordinands and the Countryside

The Church Times reports a recent experiment in Devon, where a dozen ordinands from theological colleges stayed for nine days in some rural parishes. The object was to introduce them to country ways and to let them see something of the country parson's life and problems. The report states: "Perhaps the single event which most impressed our visitors was an evening spent with a village branch of Toc H, where the discussion on the general subject of 'Church and Countryside' was most vivid."

The Elder Brethren

BARTLETT.—On July 11, the Rev. REGINALD BARTLETT, aged 69, a member of Salcombe Branch. Elected 9.3.'44.

BELL.—On June 26, DENNIS BELL, aged 16, a probationer of Braunstone Branch.

BELLOC LOWNDES.—On July 8, FREDERIC CHARLES BELLOC LOWNDES, M.C., aged 50. Toc H Club Warden, C.M.F., Italy, in 1945.

BENTLEY.—On July 1, the Rev. EDGAR J. BENTLEY, a member of Barnet Branch. Elected 14.2.'30.

CARE.—On June 24, WILLIAM HENRY CARE, aged 58, a member of St. Ives Branch. Elected 14.6.'37.

CROWE.—On July 5, GRANVILLE CROWE, aged 28, a member of Wall Heath Branch. Elected 27.11.'39.

DARBYSHIRE.—On June 30, JOHN RUSSELL DARBYSHIRE, Archbishop of Capetown, aged 68. Elected 1.1.'23.

DILBEROGLUE.—On June 30, at Eastbourne, JULIA DILBEROGLUE, in her 81st year. Donor of The Brothers' House, Mark XIII, Kennington, in memory of her two sons.

HALESWORTH.—On June 28, GEORGE WILLIAM HALESWORTH, a member of Margate Branch. Elected 16.2.'38.

LEITCH.—On April 4, WILLIAM LEITCH, a member of Belfast Branch. Elected 1.1.'27.

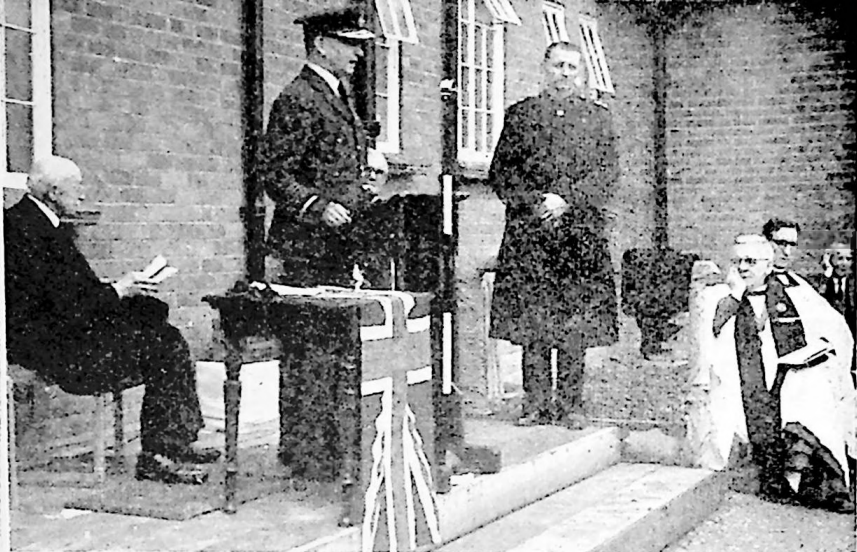
SPEAKE.—On July 4, WILLIAM THOMAS SPEAKE, aged 74, a member of Worthen Branch. Elected 26.6.'46.

SPIKIN.—On June 20, the Rev. E. JOHN SPIKIN, aged 33, a member of Reading Branch. Elected 1.9.'34.

TOULOUSE.—On June 4, the Rev. PREBENDARY E. A. TOULOUSE, a member and former Padre of Bridgnorth Branch. Elected 19.3.'43.

WHEELER.—On June 6, WALTER WHEELER, aged 63, a member of Southey Branch. Elected 10.5.'28.

WRIGHT.—On July 18, EDGAR WRIGHT, aged 60, a member of Bramley Branch. Elected 8.9.'45.



Lord Cottesloe (left). Lord Tedder (speaking). Tubby (right).

Wendover Club 'Takes Off'

"Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Lord Tedder, formally opened the Toc H Services Club in Forest Close, Wendover, on Saturday, June 19th, in the presence of a large and representative gathering."—*Extract from local paper.*

THE STORY that lies behind this bald announcement is one of vision backed by determination, extending over the past five years and has already been outlined in these pages, (see May JOURNAL, 1947.) The plan for a Toc H Services Club at Wendover would never have reached fruition but for the hard work of the County of Buckinghamshire Committee, under the Chairmanship of Lord Cottesloe with Mr. G. Driscoll as its Hon. Secretary, and the warm thanks of Toc H and all who are now using the Club is their due.

The opening ceremony was marred by bad weather. On his arrival, Lord Tedder is reported as saying, "My great meteorological brain tells me that it is going to rain soon". And so it did; and the concluding dedication ceremony by the Bishop of Oxford, the Rt. Rev. Dr. K. Kirk, had to take place inside the Club.

Lord Cottesloe, who presided, spoke of the day as being the culmination of a work which had been done by the co-operation of many people. He recalled that, when the scheme was first proposed in 1943, "I had then passed four-score years and had I known the work of producing and completing the Club was going to take five years, I think I should not have felt justified in taking the chance. However, we are here today, and those who were concerned in the early part must feel well satisfied.

"We had a long struggle . . . There were times when it seemed as if the continued rise in costs would out-distance us altogether. We did cut down our plans, and we raised a great deal more than we originally set out to spend . . . To my committee, who really did the work, and to Mr. Driscoll, we owe our very warm gratitude."

Lord Tedder, in declaring the Club open, expressed thanks on behalf of the Services and said it would be a tremendous help to the R.A.F. camp at Halton, not only to the boys, but also to their parents when they visited them. "I am sure it will be the focus for that faith, courage, determination and fellowship which has always been the main keynote of Toc H, which we in the Services and in the world need now, I think, perhaps more than ever," he said. "I wish the Club every good fortune and success."

Before the service of dedication, Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham proposed thanks to Lord Tedder and presented him with a miniature silver table lamp as a memento of the occasion.

The well planned Club premises contain eight bedrooms, a lounge reading room, games room, etc., and provide canteen and recreation facilities for all Service and ex-Service men and women, and especially for the R.A.F. camp at Halton, and also offer hospitality to the parents of sick airmen who are in the neighbouring hospital. The Wardens are Cecil and Nancy Starbuck, who returned home last summer from Palestine, where they had charge of a Toc H Services Club.

The canteen has been 'adopted' by Reading Toc H Services Club. Many articles of equipment are still required for the Club, and it is hoped that others will make gifts and follow Reading's example in the naming and adoption of some of the rooms.

Multum in Parvo

✽ The FESTIVAL of Toc H in Australia will be held in Sydney from October 21 to 26. The Toc H (Women's Section) Festival will be held on October 30-31 and the Toc H Birthday Festival on December 11-12, both in London.

✽ THE WORLD CHAIN OF LIGHT will be observed at 6 p.m. by local time on December 11 from London westward to the Pacific and on December 12 from the Pacific westward to London.

✽ CENTRAL COUNCILLORS for 1948-1950 are now to be elected. Branches are due to send Area Secretaries their nominations of candidates by October 15.

✽ Whatever their numerical strength, most Branches find it a good thing for many reasons to have a BRANCH EXECUTIVE, "elected or appointed in such manner as the members of the Branch may decide". Towards the end of each year a special responsibility rests on Branch Executives in regard to membership. In October they will be asked to call upon each one of their members to decide for himself if he intends to renew his membership for 1949. Having reviewed the membership of the Branch, they will be asked to make up their "ROLL OF BRANCH MEMBERS". A fuller notice of this will be sent to Branch Secretaries and published in the October JOURNAL.

✽ The excellent result of the B.B.C. Appeal has been a great help to our ACCOUNTS for the nine months ended July 31, 1948. Our target for this period was £45,000; our actual income was £35,520, leaving a deficit of £9,480. It is now up to our Members and Branches to do their best to reduce this deficit before the end of the financial year. Every effort will count. Don't forget: D-Day is October 31!

✽ A hearty welcome and Godspeed to many members from overseas who have been VISITORS to the British Isles this summer. They include Bishops attending the Lambeth Conference, competitors and spectators at the Olympic Games, Tubby's "Winant Volunteers", and in particular Professor H. Wasteneys, Hon. Administrator of Toc H in Eastern Canada, and F. R. Snell, Chairman of the Southern African Executive.

✽ At the invitation of the All-India Committee, ALEC CHURCHER (Youth Service Secretary) will be leaving England in October to travel to INDIA. He will be working there for a year, mostly in the Southern India Region.

✽ Housing difficulties being almost as great in Australia as at home, after a long search a house near Adelaide has been found for PADRE KENNETH BLOXHAM and his family. They will be leaving the Manchester Area to travel by R.M.S. *Orontes* on September 23. He is to be the Area Padre in SOUTH AUSTRALIA, holding the Edwin Wright Memorial Chaplaincy.

✽ REG STATON has been on the sick-list, but is shortly going to Shropshire where he will be Divisional Pilot.

✽ Toc H in WALES now has five Divisions bearing the names of Clwyd and Conwy, Monarfon, West Wales, South Wales and The Marches (formerly the Shropshire and Powysland Division).

✽ The LAKELAND AREA now consists of the Cumberland Division and the Westmorland and Furness Division.

✽ Toc H TIES can be obtained by Branch Secretaries from Messrs. C. R. Thompson, Ltd., 41 Railway Approach, London Bridge, S.E.1. Artificial Silk at 6s. each, 69s. a dozen (postage 2½d. and 9d.) will take a few months to supply after receipt of order. There are in stock: Hand Tailored at 8s. 6d. each, 99s. a dozen (postage 2½d. and 9d.); Noncrease Art Silk at the same price. No coupons are required. ARTIFICIAL SILK SQUARES are 21s. each (postage 3d. and two coupons). BLAZER BADGES (3¼" × 25⁄8") are 3s. 11d. each, 44s. a dozen (postage 2½d. and 4d.); Hand-made Silk and Wire: 28s. 6d. each (postage 2½d.) No other retailers are authorised to supply these goods.

✽ A double-sided gramophone record of the STONE-LAYING CEREMONY at All Hallows has been made, and copies are now obtainable. The cost is 15s. each, plus 2s. for packing and postage. Orders should be sent, together with remittances, to Toc H Headquarters.

✽ Toc H DIARIES FOR 1949 should be ordered from Headquarters *now*. Price: 3s. each, 36s. a dozen, post free. Order late: you know your fate!

Result of the B.B.C. Appeal

FOR THE FIRST TIME in the many weeks since June the twenty-seventh there came the morning in August when no letter was received in response to the B.B.C. appeal for Toc H, and it seemed the appropriate time to look at the results.

Forecasts of the total ranged from extreme pessimism (£400) to, what seemed to some, extreme optimism (£5,000) which, however, was quite justified, for no less than a gross sum of £4,608 has been received up to the time of going to press.

Such an amount is a valuable encouragement to every member and builder who accepted any part in the appeal, and 'Freddie' Bain has earned our gratitude for speaking his (slightly mutilated) script so appealingly and for lending his name and personality to the written 'follow-up'.

The donations came from all parts of Great Britain—Channel Islands and the Orkneys included—and a welcome reminder of interest abroad arrived from Stockholm. The smallest response was 4d. in stamps, and the two largest were cheques for £500 each, one from an anonymous donor specifically for the work of Marks.

A number of Branches sent contributions, and some members, too, were moved—was it by the Scottish accent or by the growing realisation that Toc H is *really* in need of funds? A few donations were given as tributes to the services of individual members, and in praise of one or another of the War-time Toc H Service Clubs.

But it was the gifts from old-age pensioners, and from one in poor circumstances, who shared with us a tiny postal-order she had received that day for a birthday present, that brought home a sense of our responsibility in using our money for worthwhile ends.

Finally, many enquiries were made for particulars of Toc H and its Branches, and we may be thankful that the appeal has not only brought us much-needed money, but also the goodwill of many new friends.

K.A.R.

Mark IX Keeps Jubilee

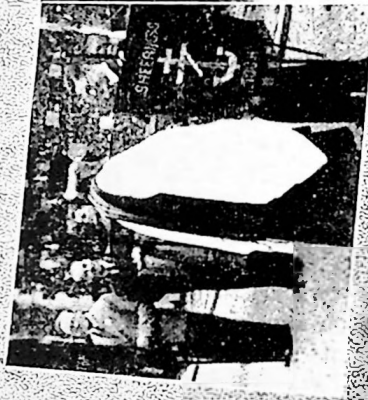
IT IS A FAR CRY to a meeting of the Bristol Rotary Club in May, 1922, and to the hour after it in which Tubby and Barkis stumbled together on the idea of the Lamp of Maintenance as the symbol for Toc H. Tubby spoke and Rotary listened to such good purpose that day that by the following year a Toc H house, Mark IX, was in being. For long it occupied inconvenient premises but has lately moved to a fine house and garden, and, in very good heart, has now celebrated its first twenty-five years of life. June 26 was the great day.

On that Saturday afternoon the tide set strongly through Bristol streets to St. Mary Redcliffe, which our first Queen Elizabeth described as "the noblest parish church in England". Many voices led the prayers and thanksgiving which followed—Sawbones, the Area Padre; Harold Beck; Tubby himself; Cyril Rowley, the Area Chairman; Cunliffe Jones, Congregationalist Padre; and Canon Swann, Vicar of the church, who spoke the final prayer—"O Thou, who art heroic Love"—and the benediction. Barkis, taking the Lamp from Denis Wright, who had received it from Tubby's hands at the altar, held it aloft while members dedicated themselves anew. Ronnie Royle ('Oogaf'), a notable member of the staff in London and Birmingham in old days, preached a vigorous sermon. Many who were there that afternoon said they had never joined in a more uplifting act of worship in Toc H.

That night an even larger crowd—some reckoned 800—filled the Great Hall of Bristol University. Barkis spoke of the old days of the Mark and its fruition in the new times. After that Tubby gave a stirring account of his visit to the United States and the help he had there received from warm-hearted friends towards the resurrection of All Hallows. When he called three of the young 'Winant Volunteers' from America to the platform, to say a few words, the audience broke into a storm of applause. With family prayers, led by Sawbones, a memorable celebration came to an end.



KENT AREA FESTIVAL CANTERBURY 1948.



Kent Area Festival

DURING THE RECENTLY-HELD FESTIVAL at Canterbury, 1,000 men and women made an act of Praise and Thanksgiving in the Cathedral at a service conducted by the Dean and Sub-Dean, the sermon being preached by Canon S. Bowen, Padre of Ashford Branch.

Then followed a sit-down tea at the Drill Hall, after which a 'Family' of some 700 members and friends adjourned to the Chapter House for a Guest evening, which opened with inspiring community hymn-singing.

During the singing, the Lamp and Banner bearers assembled in the cloisters and were marshalled into eight Districts. At the commencement the platform was empty, save for a narrator who, as each District moved down the aisle to take up position, read most appropriate passages that were first used in Westminster Abbey at an earlier Toc H Festival.

As each District reached the platform one of their number stepped forward and, for three minutes, spoke on the work of Toc H viewed against the background of his particular locality. Each of the eight reports thus given differed in style and presentation, and together presented a composite picture of Toc H throughout the Area.

The Lamps of three new Branches, Seal, St. Johns (Seven-oaks), and Sittingbourne, were then lit for the first time and, prior to taking part in the Ceremony of Light, there was heard the recitative from Haydn's *Creation*, "Let there be Light", sung by Jack Henderson of Tonbridge Branch.

Gilbert Williams mounted the platform to a roar of welcome from his former Area. Introduced by Tom Gilbert, Area Chairman, as an Honorary Kentish Man and Man of Kent, Gilbert launched into a vigorous stream of reminiscences that alternately had his hearers rocking with laughter or held in serious attention to his message.

Home-going prayers, led by the Area Padre, and the singing of "The Day Thou gavest" as a recessional for the Lamp and Banner bearers concluded a memorable day that these short notes cannot justly record.

J.D.

All Sorts & Conditions of Men

Most of us realise, in a general way, the tragic problem of 'Displaced Persons' in Europe. Not all are alive to their presence among us, in steadily increasing numbers, under the name of 'European Voluntary Workers'. Brought over from their cheerless camps in Germany, they are being fitted for industry in England and then drafted into it, the men largely into mining and agriculture, the women into textile factories and various forms of household work. A high proportion of them are Baltic people—Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians, whose countries were annexed by Soviet Russia and many of their fellow-countrymen deported to work and often to perish there. A number of our Branches have made contact with them; friendships and even membership have resulted. There is great scope in the various parts of the country where E.V.W. camps are situated for Toc H men and women to help these homeless folk in a strange land to be at home once more. The following account of one such effort comes from County Durham.

TRULY HAS IT BEEN SAID (by no less a personage than Tubby himself) that a Meeting in Toc H is not a Meeting unless strangers are present. Now that word "strangers" is very much magnified where the strangers are Latvians and Estonians. For this is precisely what happens when our Branch in Co. Durham hold their Meetings, and "it came to pass" in this manner.

In the immediate vicinity there is an E.V.W. Camp and it was felt here was an opportunity for the Branch to carry out that fellowship motif that we so often hear of in Toc H. Members of the camp were invited to the Meeting, and (I am now happy to relate) the seed was sown and is germinating very nicely. Sometimes during the Meeting a veritable Tower of Babel is heard when Bill from Latvia translates *via* "Deutsch" for Jan from Estonia what is really happening and then in halting English the result is made known to us. But it is about Bill (or to give him his full name Vilius Zarins) that I want to write.

He is tall, fair, serious, ex-University student with the word "perhaps" occurring many times in his vocabulary. Bill is studying philosophy, and Professors Hobhouse and Whitehead mean very much more to him than to some of us in this Branch in Co. Durham. He has assimilated Toc H to a degree that I thought was impossible, and by so doing the Pilot's job was a "piece of cake", as they say in the R.A.F. It is now known that Bill is to be initiated and more like him will surely follow.

At the camp where the men are hostelled, in charge of a Y.M.C.A. Warden, are to be found some of the men who have been buffeted about from one country to another and are today entreating God only for two things—Liberty and Work. In 1939 Latvia had a free population of two million and was one of the countries that had practically no unemployment.

After the men had been to our Meetings, visits to the camp quickly followed, and once in the camp the spirit of friendliness had to be made manifest. How? Well by dominoes, darts and the inevitable cup of "Char" which always seem to break down that invisible barrier. Listening to their stories and hopes, it became apparent that here is a job—a job to make a "friend and brother to be".

A certain amount of suspiciousness had to be broken down in the initial stages—those old questions, for example, was it a "Secret Society"? Was it a Political Society? Perhaps, Nazism started by a small group of fellows meeting in back yards and lofts? All this was, of course, duly discounted and all suspicion allayed.

Following our initial visits to the Camp, we invited them to local Birthday Celebrations, Rallies, Re-dedications. Christmas Eve found us with four of them at Church. "Very beautiful, very beautiful," they say, and mean it.

The Branch were invited to attend the Estonian Independence Day ceremony, when we heard a choir singing their national songs, ending with our own National Anthem. The enthusiasm was more introvert than extrovert, but nevertheless I am sure it was there.

After "Bill's" Initiation (which, by the way, was the most impressive I have ever witnessed), we really "got down to it"—the business of Toc H, always keeping in mind the possibility of a group being formed in the Camp, somewhat removed from those of the Prison Camps which were formed by our own boys in captivity. The predominant desire of the men in the camp was to mix with their own counterparts. Could we arrange a Brass Band Concert? We could, and did! And an unqualified success it was too, judging by the sustained applause after every item. "A real good night", as we say in the North.

"Bill", of course, is now an integral part of our Branch life, not looked upon as a curio, but just as one of the lads. Every job—he is there ready to assist in whichever capacity he is required. He and two more of his pals attended a District Training Week-end, and to say that they enjoyed it would be putting it mildly.

A speaker at a recent Birthday Celebration asked his audience "Have we got so much Vision, that we can call all men our brothers?" Well, if we haven't then we are not in Toc H. So to all Units in the vicinity of an E.V.W. Camp I would say, go out to them and bring them into the Family. The language question is not so unsurmountable as at first may be imagined, at least we did not find it so. To hear Bill Zarins define the "moonshine" in Twenty Questions as Mineral Abstract, soon allays that feeling "Does he know what we are talking about"? Other members of the Latvian Section of the camp accompany us on one of our "jobs", to wit, playing the local Blind People's Club at dominoes, and habitually being beaten by them. Our latest job for the camp is to organise a motor tour of the local beauty spots, with members of the Branch acting as guides.

And so it goes on, always having in mind, that these fellows desire fellowship, not sympathy but real high-hearted happiness to offset their grim prospects for the future. What does the future hold for them, or for us, God above knows, and it is to Him that we pray that He will teach us to live together, in Love, and Joy, and Peace.

J.T.L.

A Toc H Hike

WITH CONSIDERABLE TREPIDATION I set out from Barnsley on Saturday, July 3, for a trek southward to Weymouth. Thanks to Padre Brightman, and to the other blokes he worried into helping me, I had a pretty full programme. One result of this was that I was unable to walk as much of the countryside as I should have liked to do, in order to arrive at my various destinations in time. I hoped to be able to bring to the different Branches *en route* a sense of being linked up with others who are not in their Area; and also I wanted to urge everyone I met to get their lights shining. We say in our ceremony "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify our Father which is in heaven", but sad to relate nobody, except a very favoured few, knows that there is an organisation known as Toc H, and still less know where Toc H is to be found. In 340 miles I saw only three Toc H signs or notices, and in all the guide books of the towns I passed through there was not a mention of Toc H. This hardly seems like a serious effort to win men to us.

I contacted the first Branch after walking the road from Buxton to *Leek*. They have a splendid meeting place in a condemned cottage; plenty of chairs, a piano (or part of one), a good big kettle on the fire, and a fine atmosphere of friendliness. They also make good tea.

At *Stafford* I saw where the Branch meets but met none of the members; but while I was at lunch I was glad to yarn for a minute with another visitor to the town. Sorry for forgetting his name and Branch—somewhere in Manchester I think it was—but let me compliment him that his was the *only* badge I saw on my travels except those worn at the Branch meetings.

The high spot of the tour was at *Wolverhampton*. The Wulfrun District had arranged a rally at *Tettenhall* and sixty men and women members attended. It was a very happy

afternoon. Sparks, in the chair, was indecently brief; on the other hand I was equally indecently long-winded. Music was provided by a blind pianist, and when we had all posed for our photo on the Green we found that someone had provided ample refreshment. Before I was driven away (by car, I mean!) I had promised to visit the *Codsall* Branch on my way home a fortnight later. That visit was equally pleasant and well attended.

Next day and the day after I was at *Cheltenham*, and on the Monday night descended into the basement to meet the local Branch there. From what I heard the unit is active, and I feel it is to be complimented on its premises, and for displaying its sign so conspicuously.

On the Tuesday I set out for *Tetbury*, intending only to walk part way, but twenty-seven miles along the road I realised I was there and it was not necessary to get a bus. On the way I noticed the *Stroud* Branch HQ, but did not meet any of the chaps. At Tetbury I found a happy mixed gathering in the old malt house.

A flying visit to Mark IX at *Bristol* occupied the next morning. A cheery letter awaited me there, from Padre Brightman, reminding me to take my umbrella; but no news from Langport, so that I had a day free.

At *Ilminster* I spent a happy evening with the Branch—a most luxurious establishment and spacious. Only one more Branch remained to be visited, *Poole*. But before I arrived there I was able to meet a couple of the chaps from Weymouth, and was glad to learn that the Branch is hiving off. Poole was suffering from holidays, but the few there made me very welcome. I know they will excuse me when I say that I only had three days in the whole of the holiday month with my wife, and by leaving them suddenly I gained one of these.

Now I am home again with happy memories of fellowship with members of Branches at Leek, Wolverhampton, Tettenhall, Low Hill, Hurst Hill, Codsall No. 1 and No. 2, Walsall, Bilston, Cheltenham, Tetbury, Ilminster, Weymouth, Poole, and of Women's Sections at Wolverhampton, Wednesfield, Codsall, Tettenhall, Tetbury, and Weymouth. Greetings to all! I hope to see you again some day. W. C. G. HOPKINS.



In the heart of Radnorshire.

The Retreat

"TEN-THIRTY SHARP, outside The Lion." In accordance with these somewhat cryptic instructions from the Chairman, I duly presented myself outside the Lion Hotel at 10.32 a.m. on a greyish, coolish Sunday morning in July. The occasion was the annual Rally, or, as some people prefer to call it, the annual Training Day of the Mid-Wales District.

We pile into the cars and off we go along those lovely green-bordered narrow lanes which wind through the heart of Radnorshire, one of the least known and most beautiful counties in the British Isles. Every turn and dip in the road reveals a panorama of green slope and white house, grey rock and dark ravine of an enchanting beauty.

We catch a glimpse of cream colour ahead and know that the Llandrindod boys in their hired bus have beaten us to it. We pull up outside an old grey church. It is simple in design, but is perfectly fitted to the needs of a simple-living people and a faith which, in its essentials, is simplicity itself.

A voluntary on a wheezy harmonium. (Please do not sneer. O ye who worship in gilded City Temples.) Then the old oak rafters shiver with the sound of a hymn of praise which might have been written specially for the occasion by Charles Wesley.

A shortened version of Morning Prayer is followed by a brief address from the Vicar, who is also the District Padre, and then we are introduced to the Church. We learn of its past glories, of its ghost, fully equipped with phantom hearse and black-plumed horses; of its neighbour, the inn (now, alas! gone for ever), where mighty feasts were held in the days when rationing was undreamed of.

During the address the Padre called our outing "A Retreat", and such, in fact, it was. We had a simple picnic lunch in the village Memorial Hall, washed up, inspected the village, and settled down to the business of the day.

Many and varied were the topics introduced by the Area Secretary for our discussion. The place of women in Toc H, the period of probation, the value of publicity, the need to get expert advice and opinions on matters which really concern us. All these were thrashed out, and there was a refreshing originality in some of the views expressed.

Tea and Family Prayers, and then we went home. All very simple and trite and unexciting, you say. Possibly, but of rare value, none the less. Will anyone suggest a better way of spending the Sabbath than in going to a secluded retreat to worship God in simplicity and humility, surrounded by the perfect beauty of His handiwork, and to endeavour to find an answer to the urgent and vital problems which it is our lot to face?

W.G.W.

A Toc H Quiz

Answers to the Questions on pages 285 to 288.

2. C	9. C	16. C	23. B	30. A	37. B
3. D	10. C	17. D	24. B	31. C	38. C
4. B	11. E	18. C	25. D	32. D	39. A
5. A	12. B	19. B	26. A	33. C	40. C
6. B	13. E	20. C	27. E	34. C	41. B
7. D	14. B	21. C	28. B	35. E	42. E
8. A	15. A	22. D	29. C	36. D	43. A